

JUNE 2, 1855.

O. H. P. STEWART, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

ELECTION ON MONDAY NEXT—THE MOB—NATIONAL MONUMENT—REPRODUCTION OF KNOW-NOTHINGISM.

On Monday next, the people of Washington will have an important duty to perform. They will have an opportunity of rescuing the National Metropolis from the foul stains attempted to be affixed upon its fair fame, by a party calling itself "Know-nothing," since it obtained control of the municipal power within the last year.

The disgraceful scenes witnessed in front of Brown's hotel, on Saturday night last, have cast a stigma upon the character of our citizens, which can only be blotted out by an expression of their condemnation, in the most signal manner, against the propagators of it. The ballot box, on next Monday, will afford an opportunity to do this, in an effectual manner. We firmly believe, from the "signs" around us, that every citizen who values his character for respectability, no matter what his political antecedents or party preferences may heretofore have been, will now unite in denouncing a party that would engender a spirit among us so disgraceful, so starting in its characteristics, as the one which presided over and controlled the "mob" of Saturday night. We earnestly trust that every respectable and law-abiding citizen, therefore, will deem it to be a sacred duty he owes, not only to himself and family, but to the character of the Nation's Metropolis, to record his condemnation of the new "Mob Know-nothing-fraternity" on the election day.

HENRY A. WISE, the gallant leader of the Democratic party in Virginia, during the recent election, was elected Governor of that State! He had been in Washington, at the house of his son-in-law, withdrawn from the turmoil of political strife, for some days anterior to and after the election. His wife was with him, in very delicate health, and hence when his friends insisted upon complimenting him with a serenade, and made the request that he should speak to them in public, it was determined that the meeting should not take place where she would be disturbed, and Brown's Hotel was selected. The sequel is known to the Washington public. Let us look at the enormity it develops. VIRGINIA has been proudly recognized as the "Mother of States." She gave birth to the great WASHINGTON, called everywhere "the Father of his country!" Within the peaceful shades of Mount Vernon, on Virginia soil, his mortal remains have their resting place! WASHINGTON CITY is the offspring of his creation! He selected it as the permanent seat of our National Government! A large portion of it was ceded for that purpose by Virginia. Yet, in the face of all these solemn truths, when a Governor elected of that State attempts to make a speech within the sacred precincts of this national ground, in response to a call of his fellow-citizens, he is rudely, ruthlessly prevented by a MOB, calling themselves the "People of Washington," the "American party," who are heretofore determined to rule America!

If the PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON fail to put their seal of condemnation upon this outrage, the PEOPLE of the United States, in their representative capacity, will not fail to do so.

There is another powerful stimulant to urge the citizens of Washington, who value the national reputation, to raise their voices on Monday next, in opposition to the dangerous innovations upon the spirit of our institutions, made by the new "secret fraternity," in connection with the Washington Monument! That monument was made, by charter, to belong to the whole American People. It was not to be controlled by any particular or special set of party, but to be held sacred as an enduring memorial of the affections of the American heart, for the illustrious Parent of our glorious Republic. The first board of managers and officers of the society, created for the purpose of carrying into effect this tribute of a nation's gratitude, presents a galaxy of names worthy of being recorded. Among them we find, General Scott, General Towson, Colonel Albert, Walter Jones, P. R. Fendall, W. W. Seaton, Colonel Henderson, and other distinguished citizens, selected without party distinction. An attempt to make the erection of this national monument a political hobby, would have been frowned down, if it had ever been intimated, by the great parties known as Whig and Democratic. It was left for a faction of midnight growth to commit this act of sacrilege—and observe the fruits it has brought forth! The busy hum of workmen—the sound of the chisel and the hammer—the hoisting of the marble slabs, the grateful offerings of the several States—are still, as if by the blight of the deadly Mob was upon them! Under the rule of the Mob party, now attempting to control the National Monument, it will remain an eye-sore and disgrace to all who revere its name, or the object contemplated by its erection. The usurpers of the hallowed trust must be ejected by the potent voice of the People, or that national edifice will stand a huge, shapeless mass—a roost for owls and bats, and midnight thieves, to hide from justice.

It is cheering, however, to relieve ourselves from the contemplation of the evil which has recently been inflicted upon the reputation and true interests of Washington, by looking at the bright prospects which are appearing in the political horizon, within the last two months. Know-nothingism is about gasping its last breath. Its mysterious contrivances, which led many an honest man, possessing more curiosity than wisdom, into its secret caverns, have lost their allurements. The mask of its profligate leaders has been pulled off, and the reaction, leading to their political extermination, more than exceeds the mushroom growth which brought the mobish creature into life. The recent elections in several States, where the Know-nothing party sprang into existence and had triumphed a year before, show as plain as day that it cannot stand the scrutiny of a second contest. In four of the principal cities of Pennsylvania, where municipal and other elections have been held, the "Mob party" has lost upwards of thirteen thousand votes, from similar elections held last year! Thus—in Philadelphia city they have lost and we have gained nearly 9,000; in Lancaster, more than 800; in Pittsburgh, 2,000; in Allegheny City, 1,700; in Wilmington, Delaware, they have lost, since last year, 350; in Cincinnati, Ohio, 7,000; and in Indianapolis, Indiana, 900 votes! So it is everywhere that a second trial has taken place.

But old-glorious old Virginia, did not wait for a second trial. She threw the boasting, mob crowd, back into their hiding places, in the first combat. In the great and highly important victory she has achieved, she owes much to her manner of voting, but more to the unswerving political integrity of her citizens! Secret under-

ground associations, that have no fixed principle to sustain them, cannot face the vice versa, open ticket system of voting. When a man who values his political antecedents, is brought to "face the music" in this way, his heart fails, and his tongue palsies upon being required to declare publicly whether his spleen or his principle governs his vote! It would tell a tale, if this system should be adopted at the polls on Monday next. We have, however, little fear of the result. Know-nothingism will receive its death blow here on the blessed Monday next to come, and the character of the National Metropolis will be thus redeemed.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION.

Without hope man would be a miserable wretch. Without hope the Know-nothings would be the most miserable of all wretches. Their signal disaster in Virginia cast a gloom over their countenances and filled their hearts with despondency. Their voices were hushed. They were dumb as oysters. They opened not their mouths. As they had come, so they went. They came like locusts; they came like wild pigeons; they came like sorah. They disappeared like locusts, wild pigeons, and sorah. The first frost was fatal to them. As the sorah is supposed to sink into marsh mud, so the Know-nothings are supposed to have sunk into the gutters from which they sprang.

But one hope remains to them. It is that great cure for all evils—a convention. The first shock of the Virginia election over, they begin to peep from their hiding places and look out upon the sun in the heavens. Some of them have even been heard to speak, but in very gentle and subdued tones.

On Monday next they hold a national convention in Philadelphia to make, we presume, a national platform, and to arrange for the Presidential election. From this convention they expect great things. What the convention will do, it is not for us to surmise. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

The Petersburg Intelligencer, which has the credit, if credit it be, of originating the late fusion in Virginia, and which, perhaps, is the most suggestive of all the Whig journals in that State, seems to expect much from the Philadelphia convention. It advises a programme, which it thinks will be wonderfully efficacious in promoting the growth and the ascendancy of the new order. It threatens the Northern Know-nothings with the dissolution of all the lodges in the South unless a national platform shall be agreed upon. The Intelligencer thus expresses itself:

"One thing we must be permitted to say in all sincerity and candor—that, inasmuch as the slavery question now rides over all others—as this is the only rock upon which the Union can be dashed to pieces, it will be the primary duty of the convention to declare itself in the most explicit terms upon this question. There must be no ambiguity, no reservation—and a sentence or a letter under this platform upon which to hang a doubt. If there is, their labors will be in vain. They will have to choose between the constitutional, national elements in all their purity and strength, and the elements of sectional animosity, and treason, in all their rampant virulence, as now displayed in the ravings of Wilson, Parker, Greeley, Giddings, and the rest of the Satanic host that are in league against the Constitution and the Union. If they do not thoroughly clear themselves of all connection with, and sympathy for, the Abolitionists, every council at the South will be instantly disbanded, and its members, disappointed and mortified, will feel themselves under a sacred obligation to resist at all points and at all hazards the influences of an Order having affiliation with such a detestable party as that which numbers amongst its leaders the disorganizers and incendiaries who have just named. The South will be united as one man against this American party, if the Philadelphia Convention does not totally and unequivocally renounce Abolitionism in all its shapes and phases. They must stand flatly, and fearlessly, upon the passage of a resolution expressly repudiating all purposes of interfering, directly or indirectly, with SLAVERY, or, in a way prejudicial to the rights of the South. The Know-nothing South, beyond all suspicion, that they recognize those fathers of '88 established, in their full force—and that they will inflexibly adhere to the letter and spirit of the CONSTITUTION and of the LAWS."

Here is an implied admission that the Northern Know-nothings have not explicitly expressed themselves on the slavery question. Indeed more seems to be implied than this. There is the implication of a taint, that must be burnt and purged away.

When the sky falls, it will catch larks, and when the Northern Know-nothings promulge a suitable and an honest platform for slaveholders, then indeed will the wonder of wonders be performed. The suggestion of the Petersburg Intelligencer is unreasonable. It cannot expect such men as Mr. Burlingame and Senator Wilson, to declare in favor of slavery.

WHERE IS THE OLD WHIG PARTY?

The Know-nothing and Whig organs, true to their policy of keeping up the deception that the Know-nothing party is not the old Whig party in disguise, appeal to the fact that many Whigs voted against the Know-nothing party. They ask—how can it be the Whig party when Whigs voted against it? It is almost absurd and ridiculous to argue the matter with them, yet to satisfy them we will make a few remarks.

Nobody denies that some old line Whigs voted with the Democrats in Virginia. We confess it, and we confess it with pride. The very pick of the Whig party co-operated with them. They were men who make love of country, and not hatred of Democracy, their rule of conduct. They were men who abhor proscription of foreigners, religious intolerance, and midnight secrecy. They were patriots.

But the composition of a party is not determined by the composition of the adversary party. Its own materials constitute its composition and its character. We say that the Know-nothing party was a Whig party—the Whig party, and the Whig party in disguise. It boasted that it numbered amongst its members Democrats as well as Whigs. But since the election, its highest authority, the central organ in this city, accers that such Democrats as belonged to it incontinently renounced, abandoned, and forsook it before the election. If the Democrats quit it, of course it follows that those left were Whigs. But this is a form of special pleading on which we do not feel disposed to rest the case. We will take higher ground.

But two parties were in the field in Virginia—the Democratic and Know-nothing parties.

Where was the Whig party? Nobody will contend that the Democratic party was the Whig party. All agree that it was the same stern and sterling old party that has always fought Whig-

and the new party, or the men who composed it were all dead. It was impossible that nearly half the adult population of Virginia could die in a few short months. So it is demonstrable by a syllogism that the Know-nothings must of necessity be the Whigs. Nor do we mean that they included all the Whigs. We only mean that they comprehended the bulk and body of them.

If the Know-nothing party is not the Whig party in disguise, where is the Whig party?

AMERICANS AT THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

At the opening of the great exhibition in Paris, the Americans were treated with great courtesy. Each one was furnished with twenty ladies' tickets, being a greater number, it is said, than were distributed among the English. Reporters for the American press were also presented with season tickets, as were the representatives from the press of all other countries. The American flag was displayed from several conspicuous portions of the building, and there were four streamers, bearing the words New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. The United States were represented by the following gentlemen:

Mr. Mason, our minister, and his family; the members of the Legation and their ladies; Mr. McLane, Delaware; Captain McClelland, and Major Mordecai, of the United States Army, on their way to the Crimea; General Thomas, United States Army.

Mr. Belmont, Minister at Hague; Ex-President Van Buren; Major Cass, Minister at Rome; Mr. McKee, United States Consul at Paris; and by the following Commissioners from the United States:

Mansell B. Field, Chas. L. Fleischman, Alexander Vattmeyer, and S. H. Wales, for the State of New York; James Swain, A. W. Little, and Mr. Pepper, for Pennsylvania; Dr. W. E. Johnson, for Ohio; W. J. Valentine, for Massachusetts; D. C. Gilman, for Connecticut; Marshall Woods and Edward Williams, for Rhode Island; E. B. Buchanan, Consul at La Rochelle, for Maryland; R. E. Cox, for Alabama; Dr. William Rabe, for California; H. M. Morfit, of Washington, for Illinois; A. G. Powers, for Louisiana; Mr. Fleischman acts for New York, Virginia, and South Carolina.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Express says:

It may here be mentioned that the name of France occurs twenty-two times in the grand building, England ten times, the United States five, Belgium three, Austria four, and Russia, Saxony, Hanover, Wurtemberg, and Bavaria, each once. These names are placed over the arches, and being equal in extent, indicate the amount of surface allotted to the respective nations mentioned.

The number of exhibitors in this exhibition is about twenty thousand—of which nine thousand five hundred are French and ten thousand five hundred foreign. The number of exhibitors from the United States, registered at this moment, is about one hundred and ten. But a small proportion of the articles have arrived, and some of these are very seriously damaged. No fair estimate can yet be made to what extent the American department will be filled, but hopes are entertained that it will not be necessary to cede back any more of the space now placed at the disposal of the American Commissioners.

A QUESTION FOR DEMOCRATIC KNOW-NOTHINGS.

Since the Know-nothing defied in Virginia, many of the organs of that party insist that the unpopular feature is its secrecy. They recommend that secrecy shall be done away with, and that henceforth the meetings and proceedings of the Order shall be open.

Which of the features of the new organization is the most odious, would be hard to determine—whether its secrecy, its religious intolerance, its proscription of foreigners, or its reckless disregard of all those vital principles that have constituted the creeds of parties.

We do not think that any remedy can resuscitate Know-nothingism. It is past the help of medicine. All the efforts of its doctors to infuse into it vigor and spirit will be unavailing. Every change made in it will be a change for the worse. Its secrecy has, perhaps, been its most efficient prop. Should that be abolished, it will then lose its chief charm for the multitude.

Its rules will doubtless be modified to suit the changes as they arise. These changes will go on until at last it will in all likelihood fall back into ancient whiggery. Should this occur, it will be interesting to inquire into the future whereabouts of such Democrats as have joined the Know-nothings, and shall cling to them until that not distant day, when their "elements shall melt with fervent heat," and their dissolution shall take place. The Democratic party, which they deserted in a crisis, will not want them in the hour of victory. They will not want them at all. They are happy to be rid of them. Where will these men go?

POSTAGE TO TURK'S ISLAND.

We are requested to state that the Post Office at Turk's Island being under the control of the Colonial Authorities, there is no office there to collect, on behalf of the British Post Office Department, the postage chargeable upon letters from the United States conveyed to that island by British packets.

Unless, therefore, the British postage of 24 cents per half ounce, on letters for Turk's Island, in addition to the United States postage of 10 or 20 cents, according to distance, is prepaid in the United States, the same as upon letters for foreign places (not British) in the West Indies, they cannot be forwarded to their destination.

The National Intelligencer, of the 7th of May, contained what purported to be "An Address of the Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society to the people of the United States." The publication was signed with the names of the individuals who, as that journal had before informed its readers, were elected officers and managers of the society on the 22d of February last, by what it gently described as a "coup de main" of one of the "two bodies of men [who] claim to be the board of managers of this society." This address had previously appeared in the American Organ, except that the passage "All causes of difference between us and the old board have, as we hope, been removed," contained in the American Organ, was omitted in the Intelligencer. Now, the other of the "two bodies of men" has also made an address to the public; and of that other of the "two bodies," one of the editors of the National Intelligencer has been a member for more than twenty years. Why has not the address of the other of the "two bodies," &c., appeared in the National Intelligencer? Can any body tell?

Mr. Wise's calculation of his probable majority turns out to be astonishingly correct. It was eleven thousand or thereabouts.

ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.—The Trenton (N. J.) Free Press is out in favor of Hon. John M. Botts, of Virginia, for the Presidency.

From the Richmond Enquirer. The Congressional Contest.

The Democrats have carried every District in the State—all the late members having been re-elected. Returns yesterday leave no doubt of the triumphant re-election of Mr. Lewis, about whose success some doubt was previously entertained.

ELECTION OF MR. HOLLADAY. There is no longer any doubt of the election of A. R. Holladay, esq., as a Commissioner of Public Works, from the Central District. His majority is very decided.

THE LEGISLATURE. The next Legislature will be Democratic by upwards of 40 votes. The triumph is complete and glorious in all respects. Mr. Wise's majority will be about eleven thousand.

Democratic Rejoicings over the Virginia Election.

New York, May 31.—There is an immense gathering at Tammany Hall this evening in honor of the result of the election in Virginia. One hundred and fifty guests are being fired in the Park. The hall is illuminated and speeches, fireworks, &c., are adding to the enthusiasm. The hall is excessively crowded.

PHILADELPHIA, May 31.—The Democrats here fired 100 guns this afternoon, in honor of the Virginia election, and a tremendous meeting is being held this evening in Independence square, at which the Hon. John Rollins presides. Processions from every ward of the city, with music and transparencies, marched to the place of meeting. There are speeches being made from two stands at opposite ends of the square, by Messrs. Florence, Collins, Caldwell, Tyler, Carrigan, Witte and others.

The Queen's Presentation of the Crimean Medal.

The scene in St. James' Park, London, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's presentation, in person, of the Crimean medal, to about 600 soldiers of the Great British and Irish Regiments, described as a pleasing but affecting sight. A plot was really touching to see the men trying to look like soldiers, with their heads bowed and shoulders drooping, and some with long suffering others decreed from severe wounds. The Queen sat beneath a magnificent pavilion, above which waved the Royal Standard of England, on a large square dais, and in front of the pavilion was an elaborate and brilliant brass railing, which shone gayly in the sunlight, and it was over this Her Majesty leaned as she presented the decoration to the proud, gratified, brave fellows, who, with glittering eyes, regarded the bright medal and party-colored ribbon, as they received it from Her Majesty, as a pearl beyond price.

A large body of very young soldiers were present; and it was impossible not to notice the effect that the distribution of the medals had upon them, creating a spirit of emulation, and arousing an eager desire to dare the same dangers which had won these gallant fellows the proud distinction received directly from the hands of the Queen. There was an eager concourse of soldiers, and an eager desire to be first, and many a wet eye looked upon the spectacle of a tender woman, high and distinguished as her position is, leaning over the stalwart soldier wounded in battle, and placing the decoration upon his breast, and there were divisions of troops present who defied past her majesty in slow and quiet time. The distribution occupied nearly two hours. With her usual good fortune, the Queen secured a fine day.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Return of the San Jacinto, Commodore McCauley, Departure of the Jamestown, for the coast of Africa.—We understand that Commodore McCauley, after giving the necessary instructions for the proper disposition of the several vessels of the squadron, has been ordered to proceed in the Steamer New York, when Captain Paulding will assume the command of the squadron. We understand, also, that the San Jacinto will return again to this squadron, to which will be attached the Jamestown, the flag-ship of the African squadron, which was temporarily attached to Commodore McCauley's squadron, has been ordered to proceed to her destination.

PROCLAMATION OF THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL OF CUBA.

The following from the official journal at Havana. Government, captain-general, delegated superintendent of the treasury of the ever-faithful island of Cuba.

Don Jose Gutierrez de la Concha, governor, captain-general, general-in-chief of the army of the island, &c., &c.

The measures adopted for the defense and security of the island, and the decided disposition of its inhabitants to sustain its nationality, have already rendered impossible the attempts of those who, by an unconstitutional usurpation, have sought to establish an internal rebellion, which might give it a character different from that which it really had.

The preserved tranquility, then, and onward strength by the increased moral and material strength which the government has derived from the proofs of loyalty and patriotism given by the inhabitants of the island under these circumstances, the captain-general has completely re-established public confidence by the exercise of ordinary legislation.

I have, therefore, determined to decree: Art. 1. The state of siege throughout the territory of Cuba, and its adjacent waters, and the keys, and likewise the blockade of the coasts and adjacent waters, decreed in my proclamation of the 12th of February, 1855, is removed.

HAVANA, May 23, 1855. JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

A second decree dissolves the military commission instituted by proclamation of February 13, 1855, for the purpose of trying persons accused of conspiracy, treason, and rebellion against the State, and for publishing and circulating the same, and directs the removal of cases removed from that commission to the ordinary tribunals having cognizance.

Another decree repeals a proclamation of February 9, 1855, by which annual licenses for transit, empowers the holders of such licenses to use them, and authorizes the issue of them to applicants.—[Union of yesterday.]

The French Exhibition.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser gives rather a chilling view of the exhibition of the great French Exhibition. He says: "The inauguration of the Exhibition took place on the 15th, the appointed day. Neither the ceremonial of the occasion, nor the appearance of the building, nor the value and workmanship of the products, can be for one moment compared to the World's Fair in Hyde Park. The weather was dull and very raw, with threatening rain; the major portion of the articles were arranged in their places, 30,000 boxes and packages yet remaining to be opened. The programme was very short, lasting hardly a quarter of an hour, consisting of a short speech by the Emperor in reply to Prince Napoleon, and two pieces of music; while the arrangements of the police plainly showed the extreme haste in which the whole affair had been conducted. The pageantry of the Emperor arrived, surrounded by his magnificent military guard, and the pomp and circumstance of the highly-dressed galleries, during the delivery of the discourse of Prince Napoleon, were the most striking features of the ceremony. The Emperor, who was received, and not a single shout marked the conclusion of his speech. He and the Empress walked several times through the edifice, by passages fenced in from the crowd, and excited the curiosity of the people by their appearance. It must certainly be allowed that this long-expected day fell very far short of realizing the anticipations that had been formed of it. The Patrie, in speaking of the Palace and its contents, begins by saying to readers to forget the London Exhibition, if they can, for a comparison of the two would mortify their national pride. The stock fell the day after one and a quarter per cent."

I ought to have said, while the English embassy had many tickets of admission as it asked for, and while Prince Napoleon gave 4,000 with his own hand, the American embassy received exactly none! The foregoing account of the society this board could not consent to the instruments or the

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT—EXPOSITION OF THE MANAGERS.

To the Members of the Washington National Monument Society the following is submitted by the Board of Managers.

It has become the duty of the Board of Managers to inform you of the causes which disturb the discharge of the trust confided to them. This society was established in the city of Washington in the year 1833, for the purpose, as stated in its constitution, of erecting "a great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government."

For this object, the managers and their successors, chosen under that constitution, solicited and obtained funds from individuals, associations, and public bodies in every part of the Union, without distinction of party or of creed; accepted offered contributions from Indian tribes, and blocks of marble, with suitable inscriptions, from countries in the Old World; and obtained from Congress authority to build the monument on land belonging to the nation, at its metropolis. Their labors have been successful, and the monument, on the 4th of July, 1848, in the presence of the representatives of the people and the States, and of an assembled multitude, the corner stone of the monument was laid. The work, thus auspiciously commenced, has been diligently prosecuted; and at the close of the last season, the collections had amounted to two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, and the shaft of the monument had reached the height of one hundred and seventy feet. During the past summer the managers felt it to be their duty to invoke the attention of Congress to the history and prospects of this pious work. Their memorial was referred by the House of Representatives to a select committee, of which the Hon. HENRY MAY, of Maryland, was chairman. This committee, after a careful examination of the subject, made a report on the 22d of February last, emphatically approving the conduct of the managers, and recommending "that the sum of two hundred thousand dollars should be subscribed by Congress on behalf of the people of the United States in aid of the society."

The report was understood to have been acceptable to the House; but action on it was interrupted by a plot secretly contrived, and suddenly disclosed, to reverse the principles on which the society had uniformly acted, and to degrade and deprive, sacred to patriotism and humanity, into an instrument of party or sect. On the very day on which the select committee made their auspicious report, the managers, and the friends of the monument, a crowd of persons assembled at the City Hall, and there voted for seventeen individuals, named in a printed ticket, to be officers and managers of this society. The only previous announcement of the meeting was a notice signed by "J. N. Eckloff, Clerk, W. N. M. Society," and published on the evening of the 21st of February, in the American Organ and the Evening Star, and on the morning of the 22d in the National Intelligencer. On the 24th of February, the same named paper, the result of the election was proclaimed in the following publication:

WASHINGTON N. M. OFFICE. February 23, 1855.

The Washington National Monument Society met, according to the constitution of said society, on the 23d of February, 1855, at the City Hall, at their office, on the 23d of February, 1855, to elect the officers of said society, and to choose thirteen members, who, with the officers, constitute the board of managers. After being organized, the society proceeded to the election of officers, and proceeded to ballot, Messrs. F. A. Tucker, D. A. Gardner, Charles Myers, Jackson Edmundson, John D. Thompson, and John P. White, acting as tellers, who announced the following as the result:

Whole number of votes cast, 755, of which Vespasian Ellis, First Vice President, received 754 votes; and John P. White, Second Vice President, 753 votes. Charles C. Tucker, Secretary, 755 votes; John M. McCalla, Treasurer, 755 votes.

BOARD OF MANAGERS. Samuel S. Briggs, 755 votes; French S. Evans, 755 votes; Henry Adams, 755 votes; Charles R. Briggs, 755 votes; Joseph H. Bradley, 755 votes; J. N. Craig, 755 votes; Thomas D. Sandy, 755 votes; Samuel E. Brooks, 755 votes; James A. Gordon, 755 votes; Robert T. Knight, 755 votes; Samuel E. Douglass, 755 votes; Joseph Libbey, 755 votes; Thomas D. Brooke, 755 votes.

Attest: Clerk Washington National Monument Society.

This pretended election of managers of the Washington National Monument Society was not made according to the constitution, and was without the sanction of any authority authorized by the constitution. The constitution of the society provides that the election is every third year from the year of 1835. The years, therefore, for holding elections, "according to the constitution," are 1838, 1841, 1844, 1847, 1850, 1853, and 1856. The pretended election of 1855, is therefore, in violation of the constitution, and is null and void. The election was held in 1849; that the existing board of managers was then elected; and that, dating from that election, the year 1855 is a triennial period. Surely, an unconstitutional election in 1855 is not made constitutional by the fact that there had been an unconstitutional election six years before. But the title and authority of this board of managers, and the appointments made by them from elections, and appointments made by them thereto; and, in fact, from direct grant in the constitution itself, independent of all elections by the members of the society, even had there been no election, would be sufficient to establish the adoption of the constitution. Not only so, but the absolute validity of their title and authority were recognized by the society throughout a long series of years, and by the Government of the United States, but it is unequivocally admitted by the official acts and declarations of the very parties who are now intruding themselves into the seats of this board, under color of the spurious and unconstitutional election of the 23d of February, 1855. The notices preceding and following the pretended election of February 23, 1855, were given without the authority or knowledge of this board. The secretary of the society was not authorized to give notice of such an election, nor to sign or publish any notices. The pretended election, who did sign and publish them was the clerk of the board of managers; his duties were those of a recorder and messenger; he had no color of authority to sign, or publish any notices; and he had not, in any manner, whatever, communicated to the board his purpose of issuing them. Their regular meetings were on Tuesday of every week; the last meeting prior to the pretended election had been held on Tuesday, the 20th of February; and the board then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 27th of that month. In consequence of the proceedings of the 23d of February, a meeting was called for the 24th. On the evening of the 23d, the board of managers of the last previous meeting, it was found to contain a minute importing that the board had authorized the holding of an election on the 23d. The election was held on the 23d of February, according to the published report of the pretended election, the whole number of votes cast was 755, of which all were given to each of the seventeen persons named in the ticket, except one, who received 754 votes; and not one of the persons named in the ticket was a member of the existing board. This election was carried on certificates of membership (which can be obtained by the contribution of one dollar for each) issued without the authority or knowledge of this board; and it is now in the power of the board to ascertain by whom they were respectively issued; or what money, if any, was paid for them. But it is certain that no person on this account has received any of the hands of the Treasurer of this Society—the officer who ought to have received it.

The unanimity of the votes of the pretended election on the 23d of February last, the new creation of managers, which carried that election, the exclusion from the future management of the society of those who had heretofore conducted its affairs; the substitution of persons, but few, if any, of whom had been known as its members, and the exclusion of the managers of the society, the concealment of the proceedings of the election, all manifested that the election was the result of an extensive and secret combination between persons not members of the society, and was a complete usurpation of the rights of the society. There is conclusive evidence that the plan of the election was "silently, yet solemnly resolved" and framed in the secret lodges of a sect styled itself at one time the "Know-nothing" party, at another the "American" party; and that its object was to transfer the entire and exclusive management of the monument into its own hands, and to out every other description of citizens from all participation in the trust. Of such a revolution in the principles and conduct of the society this board could not consent to the instruments or the

agents, as they would have made themselves by a voluntary surrender of their trust to illegal successors.

On the morning of the 24th of February, several members of this board repaired to their office, in advance of a special meeting of the board, which had been called, and was to be held at noon. The Clerk exhibited to them a letter which had been addressed to him by Vespasian Ellis, esq., claiming to have been elected first vice president of the society, in which letter the clerk was warned not to allow any use or inspection of the books and papers of the office without an order from the writer, or those whom he represented. The pretensions of the letter were also urged upon the members of the board, who were to be the officers and managers under the proceedings of the 23d. The constitutional managers present, disregarding these interruptions, examined to some extent the books and papers in the office; but during the examination others of the pretended board entered the office, and at length the claimants under the movement of the 23d organized themselves into a board, and adopted a resolution, consisting of General Jones, Mr. FENDALL, Col. FORT, Mr. LENOX, and Mr. SMITH, to investigate the existing state of things and report thereon at the next regular meeting. This committee, after a careful scrutiny of the subject matter, on the 27th of February, a report, closing with the two following conclusions:

1. That the election held on the 23d day of February, 1855, was held one year before the time of the election, and was therefore null and void. 2. That the officers and managers in office on the day of the pretended election, on the 23d day of February, 1855, are still in office, as holding over in virtue of previous elections and of the requirement in the Constitution, that vacancies occurring in the board of managers, shall be filled by the board until the next regular election; and that the same are the constitutional and lawful officers and board of managers of the Washington National Monument Society.

The board unanimously adopted the report of the committee, and also the following resolutions: 1. Resolved, That the election held on the 23d day of February, 1855, was held one year before the time of the election, and was therefore null and void. 2. That the officers and managers in office on the day of the pretended election, on the 23d day of February, 1855, are still in office, as holding over in virtue of previous elections and of the requirement in the Constitution, that vacancies occurring in the board of managers, shall be filled by the board until the next regular election; and that the same are the constitutional and lawful officers and board of managers of the Washington National Monument Society.

The board unanimously adopted the report of the committee, and also the following resolutions: 1. Resolved, That the election held on the 23d day of February, 1855, was held one year before the time of the election, and was therefore null and void. 2. That the officers and managers in office on the day of the pretended election, on the 23d day of February, 1855, are still in office, as holding over in virtue of previous elections and of the requirement in the Constitution, that vacancies occurring in the board of managers, shall be filled by the board until the next regular election; and that the same are the constitutional and lawful officers and board of managers of the Washington National Monument Society.

The board unanimously adopted the report of the committee, and also the following resolutions: 1. Resolved, That the election held on the 23d day of February, 1855, was held one year before the time of the election, and was therefore null and void. 2. That the officers and managers in office on the day of the pretended election, on the 23d day of February, 1855, are still in office, as holding over in virtue of previous elections and of the requirement in the Constitution, that vacancies occurring in the board of managers, shall be filled by the board until the next regular election; and that the same are the constitutional and lawful officers and board of managers of the Washington National Monument Society.

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT—EXPOSITION OF THE MANAGERS.

To the Members of the Washington National Monument Society the following is submitted by the Board of Managers.